

Attorney's Docket No.:10559/355001

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 were pending prior to amendment. Please cancel claims 1-14 without prejudice or disclaimer. Please add new claims 21-36.

Claims 1-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101. Claims 1-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112. Claims 1-14 were further rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as allegedly being unpatentable in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,021,433 to Payne.

In view of the amendments and remarks herein, the rejections are respectfully traversed. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

I. The rejections under 35 U.S.C. 101, 112, and 102(e)

Claims 1-14 have been cancelled and new claims 21-36 added, rendering the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 101, 112, and 102(e) moot.

II. New claims 21-36

New claims 21-36 are supported in the specification; therefore, no new matter is added.

New claims 21-36 more clearly emphasize the patentable aspects of the current specification. For example, claim 21 recites "an alert handler configured to receive information indicative of one or more received alerts," where the received alerts are included in "interactive communication." The alert

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handler is further configured to "generate a broadcast alert management message in response to at least one of the received alerts."

That is, the system of claim 1 is configured so that alerts are received via an interactive communication channel, while an alert management message is broadcast. As noted in the specification, "In some circumstances, the head end cannot open an interactive channel with a client." (Please see page 2, lines 10-11 of the specification). "When the head end lacks control to initiate an interactive channel with a client, the head end may be unable to pass alert management messages to the client on an interactive channel." (Please see page 3, lines 15-18 of the specification). Thus, the features of claim 1 allow alert management information to be transmitted to one or more clients, even in the absence of an interactive channel.

Payne neither teaches nor suggests the above features of claim 1. Note that the "alerts" referred to in FIG. 6 of Payne (cited in the office action) are personal alerts: "Personal alert notifications, illustrated in FIG. 6, contain alert information targeted to specific users, including but not limited to notifications regarding E-mail arrival, stock prices reaching specified values, Internet telephone calls, chats or meeting notices." (Please see column 12, lines 63-67 of Payne).

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Other claims include additional features not found in Payne. For example, Payne neither teaches nor suggests an alert handler configured to "generate a first broadcast alert management message in response to a first received alert at a first time," and to "generate a second broadcast alert management message in response to the first received alert at a second time subsequent to the first time" as recited in claim 22. That is, Payne neither teaches nor suggests generating two alert management messages in response to a single received alert.

For at least the above reasons, claims 21-36 are in condition for allowance, and a notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

Please apply \$36.00 for excess claim fees and any other charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

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